

## MR. BEECHER ON CLEVELAND

WAITING TO MAKE UP HIS MIND.

**MADE ill by worry about the Buffalo scandal—What Mr. Beecher and his wife say.**

During the last few days several of the Western papers have contained extracts from a letter written by Henry Ward Beecher to George R. Peck of Kansas, in which he says: "Owing to the late developments at Albany, I cannot conscientiously, and will not now, support Grover Cleveland for President in the coming campaign."

With the view of ascertaining what Mr. Beecher's real opinions are on the matter, a TRIBUNE reporter visited him yesterday at his country home at Peekskill. Mrs. Beecher was seated in the library, and said that Mr. Beecher or he excused for half an hour as he had just late down. "My husband has been quite ill for several days," said she, "and I don't think it safe to disturb him."

When asked to state the nature of the illness Mrs. Beecher said that it appeared to be merely an attack of cold, but that he and the family physician had taken such measures for Mr. Beecher, and that she had not slept in forty-eight hours, passing her entire time in his bedroom.

"The truth of the matter is," said she, "I am worried about this Cleveland scandal. It came upon him like a flash of lightning. He had always regarded Mr. Cleveland as a very honest man, both politically and morally, and he was completely prostrated when he heard reports to the contrary. At first we would

have no news on him, so we took such precautions as to keep him from being disturbed. It does not matter how he gained his information, but it is sufficient to say that it was from what he received at the most authoritative source possible. It was not de-

sired that Mr. Cleveland had a son, who now lives at Buffalo. It was represented that Mr. Cleveland had supported both the mother and child, and had done all in his power to do so, but that, learning that his son was not altogether blameless, he had never thought of the past of a man. Scarcely was he settled in his residence when letters from prominent persons all over the country came to him, expressing their views on the worst accusation possible on the Buffalo story. Men whose names have a national reputation as orators and lawyers gave testimony on the man's character, and he was compelled to make a statement to the press, and this was the result. Mr. Beecher was completely prostrated and—"here Mr. Beecher rose, and said: "Henry, it is another report."

Mr. Beecher had just entered the room, when showed him several extracts from recent newspapers, and asked if the reports they contained of his having changed his opinion of Mr. Cleveland were not entirely correct. The track was wet and the Kaaterskill Junction was reached in thirty-five minutes from Phoenicia, the best previous run being forty-five minutes. Kaaterskill Station, always twelve to twenty minutes away before, now became only eighteen, even though the train was drawn by "Tip" the engine. From the station at the lake, where the party was met by George Harding of the Kaaterskill, a drive of a few minutes brought all to the hotel. Here as the party alighted the 500 or more guests stood on the piazza to welcome the President. The ladies played host to the men, and the President went to a suite of rooms in the north tower of the hotel, which he says are equal to any he has ever had at Saratoga or elsewhere. A fine display of fireworks was designed for this evening, but the weather is wet and stormy, and it was decided to postpone it until to-morrow.

Henry W. Maxwell presented Mr. Downing as chairman of the meeting. The latter spoke briefly, saying that

parties were now substantially agreed in this country.

The party was then adjourned to the Germania Ora-

torium, where the members of the Germania Club

had gathered to-morrow.

It is such a man as I am, I can do nothing.

This letter was entirely private and I am patient that it

it will not be made public, and am awaiting more light.

You know that sometimes one gropes in the darkness for a time, but the exercise of a little patience will generally show the right road.

As those events have come, I am determined to ascertain the exact truth. I had never heard a breath against Mr. Cleveland a moral character during the campaign, and in fact, I did not hear a word of censure.

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